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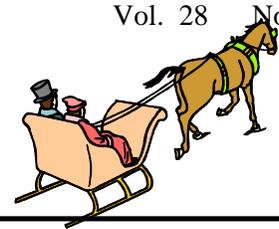
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Season's Greetings

from

Colorado Field Office



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FALL POTATO STOCKS

DECEMBER 1, 2008

The 13 major potato States held 242 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2008, down 9 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below December 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, slightly below December 1, 2007. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.00 million cwt on December 1, 2008, down 5 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 123 million cwt, was 6 percent below December 1, 2007 and down 5 percent from December 1, 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.0 million cwt, was down 8 percent from the same date in 2007 and down 2 percent from 2006. Processors in the 9 major States have used 71.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from the same period last year and down 3 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 26 percent below the same period in 2006.

Fall potato stocks in Colorado's San Luis Valley totaled 16.4 million cwt as of December 1, 2008 up 8 percent from the stocks in storage one year earlier. The latest stocks represent 77 percent of the 21.34 million cwt produced in 2008. The December 2007 stocks represented 72 percent of the 2007 crop of 20.98 million cwt. The December 1, 2008 stocks by type in Colorado were 3 percent reds, 1 percent whites, 11 percent yellow and 85 percent russet.

Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2003-2007 period. The remaining 32 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold

as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years. If these relationships for total sales and table stock sales exist for the 2008 crop, about 18.4 million cwt of the 21.34 million cwt produced will be sold of which 14.5 million cwt will be sold as table stock.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks

December 1, 2007-2008

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008		
	Prod.	Stocks Dec. 1, 2007	% of Prod.	Prod.	Stocks Dec. 1, 2008	% of Prod.
	1,000 Cwt		%	1,000 Cwt		%
CA	3,792	2,000	53	3,939	1,900	48
CO.....	20,981	15,200	72	21,338	16,400	77
ID.....	130,010	92,000	71	114,805	83,000	72
ME.....	16,815	12,900	77	14,496	10,800	75
MI.....	14,700	8,800	60	13,600	8,000	59
MN	20,680	13,400	65	20,160	13,000	64
MT.....	3,696	3,500	95	3,564	3,500	98
NE	8,217	5,300	65	8,299	5,300	64
NY.....	5,216	2,900	56	5,696	2,600	46
ND.....	23,660	14,500	61	22,680	14,800	65
OR	20,238	18,000	89	18,387	15,900	86
WA	102,300	59,000	58	93,000	49,500	53
WI.....	28,160	20,000	71	25,730	17,500	68
13 ST.	398,465	267,500	67	365,694	242,200	66
Klamath Basin 1/		4,200			4,000	

1/ Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County Or.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS - 2008

Production in Colorado, at 792 million cwt, is up 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested at 44,000 acres was 4 percent lower than the 46,000 acres harvested last year. The average yield of 1,800 pounds per acre is 200 pounds below 2007.

United States dry edible bean production is forecast at 25.7 million cwt for 2008, up 2 percent from the October forecast and up 1 percent from 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.50 million acres, up slightly from the October

forecast but down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.45 million acres, 2 percent above the October forecast but 2 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage.

Production is expected to be lower than 2007 in 9 of the 18 producing States, primarily due to reduced acreage. If realized, Nebraska and New York will have their highest dry bean yields on record, at 2,350 and 1,880 pounds per acre, respectively.

The average United States yield is forecast at 1,775 pounds per acre, an increase of 1 pound from October's forecast and 59 pounds above the 2007 yield. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the United States.

Production increased from a year ago for all classes except pinto, large chickpeas, blackeye peas, and small limas. Production remained unchanged for small white. In North Dakota, harvest began mid-September, two weeks behind the five-year average, and was complete by early November. Michigan harvest was behind normal due to continued rains.

Harvest was only 31 percent complete at the end of September, compared with 71 percent at the same time last year and a 5-year average of 67 percent. In Minnesota, the crop was 69 percent harvested as of September 28.

Dry Edible Beans: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006-2008 1/

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre 2/		Production 2/		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Pounds		1,000 Cwt.		
California	59.0	52.0	58.0	51.9	2,090	2,030	1,209	1,2112	1,054
Colorado.....	48.0	48.0	46.0	44.0	1,600	1,800	1,140	736	792
Idaho	90.0	80.0	89.0	79.0	1,800	1,850	1,900		1,462
Kansas	6.5	6.0	6.0	5.5	2,300	2,100	210	138	116
Michigan	200.0	200.0	195.0	195.0	1,600	1,850	4,085	3,120	3,607
Minnesota.....	150.0	150.0	145.0	145.0	1,800	1,900	2,228	2,610	2,757
Montana	18.3	15.0	16.6	14.0	1,670	1,500	305	278	210
Nebraska.....	110.0	135.0	107.0	124.0	2,260	2,350	2,728	2,418	2,914
New Mexico	7.5	9.3	7.5	9.3	2,400	2,330	197	180	217
New York.....	17.0	17.0	16.5	16.8	1,360	1,880	239	224	316
North Dakota.....	690.0	660.0	665.0	640.0	1,590	1,570	7,680	10,574	10,048
Oregon	8.0	4.8	7.9	4.7	1,850	2,000	190	146	94
South Dakota.....	13.0	8.5	11.7	8.3	1,860	1,840	224	218	153
Texas	17.0	24.0	16.2	21.4	1,500	1,100	238	243	235
Utah.....	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	400	550	2	5	7
Washington	60.0	50.0	60.0	50.0	1,700	1,700	968	1,020	850
Wisconsin.....	6.1	6.5	6.0	6.4	1,530	2,130	108	92	136
Wyoming.....	25.0	32.5	24.0	31.5	2,310	2,330	590	555	733
United States.....	1,526.9	1,499.8	1,478.7	1,448.0	1,716	1,775	24,247	25,371	25,701

1/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 2/ Clean Basis.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION

2008 CROP

Production of fall potatoes for 2008 is forecast at 374 million cwt, up slightly from the November forecast but down 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested, at 921,200 acres, is virtually unchanged from the November forecast but 8 percent lower than last year. The average yield, forecast at 406 cwt per acre, is down 1 cwt from November's forecast and down 3 cwt from last year's record high yield.

Idaho's yield is forecast at 378 cwt per acre. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, 8 cwt below the record yield set in 2006. Production in Idaho is down from last year due to a 13 percent decrease in harvested acres. In eastern Washington, potatoes were planted on time, but growth was delayed due to cool, wet weather in the early summer, which also delayed planting in the western part of the State. Potato size was smaller than last year, but quality was good. In Colorado, the growing season was favorable for the San Luis Valley, however, severe hail storms in August damaged plants just before vine killing.

As a result, potato sizes were variable. Despite a slow start for the potato crop in Oregon, most growers reported normal to slightly below normal yields. In California, favorable weather conditions resulted in excellent crop quality and yields.

In North Dakota, crop condition was rated fair to good throughout the growing season. Wisconsin growers reported a smaller crop with good quality potatoes. In Michigan, there were low disease and insect pressures across the State and harvest was mostly complete by early November.

In Maine, a wet growing season resulted in below average potato yields. Dry weather in September promoted excellent harvest and storage conditions. Massachusetts potato farmers battled wet conditions during the season, while growing conditions were excellent in Rhode Island.

Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley produced 21.34 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 2 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was 375 cwt per acre, 20 cwt above last year's yield. The harvested area of 56,900 acres this year was 2,200 acres less than in 2007.

Fall Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006-2008

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield/Acre		Production		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
California	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	480	505	3,870	3,792	3,939
Colorado.....	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.9	355	375	22,686	20,981	21,338
ID	350.0	305.0	349.0	304.0	373	378	128,915	130,010	114,805
10 SW Co.....	21.0	15.0	21.0	15.0	490	525	9,975	10,290	7,875
Other Co.....	329.0	290.0	328.0	289.0	365	370	118,940	119,720	106,930
Maine	57.1	56.0	57.0	54.7	295	265	17,980	16,815	14,496
Massachusetts.....	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	310	260	744	837	624
Michigan	42.5	43.0	42.0	42.5	350	320	14,190	14,700	13,600
Minnesota.....	50.0	50.0	47.0	48.0	440	420	20,400	20,680	20,160
Montana	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.8	330	330	3,518	3,696	3,564
Nebraska.....	21.0	19.5	19.8	19.3	415	430	8,730	8,217	8,299
Nevada	7.3	5.8	7.3	5.8	390	410	2,937	2,847	2,378
New Mexico	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.8	370	400	2,100	1,998	2,320
New York.....	19.0	18.0	18.3	17.8	285	320	5,700	5,216	5,696
North Dakota.....	97.0	82.0	91.0	81.0	260	280	25,480	23,660	22,680
Ohio	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.1	330	325	1,008	990	683
OR.....	36.5	35.3	36.5	35.3	554	521	18,533	20,238	18,387
Malheur.....	3.5	2.8	3.5	2.8	455	415	1,523	1,593	1,162
Other Co.....	33.0	32.5	33.0	32.5	565	530	17,010	18,645	17,225
Pennsylvania	10.5	10.0	10.0	9.5	220	265	2,730	2,200	2,518
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	300	285	130	180	143
Washington	165.0	155.0	165.0	155.0	620	600	89,900	102,300	93,000
Wisconsin.....	64.5	63.5	64.0	62.0	440	415	29,370	28,160	25,730
United States.....	1,010.8	930.4	996.8	921.2	409	406	398,921	407,517	374,360

MILK PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 2008

Colorado dairy herds produced 240 million pounds of milk during the November 2008 period, 5 percent above the 228 million pounds produced during the same period in 2007. The average number of milk cows on hand during the month was 130,000, up 10,000 head from the same month last year. Production per cow averaged 1,845 pounds for November, fifty five pounds below a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from November 2007. October revised production at 14.4 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from October 2007.

The October revision represented an increase of 16 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,657 pounds for November, 3 pounds above November 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 99,000 head more than November 2007, and 6,000 head more than October 2008.

Milk Cows and Milk Production

Item	Unit	2007	2008
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	120	130
Production per cow <u>2</u> /	Pounds	1,900	1,845
Production <u>2</u> /.....	Mil. lbs.	228	240
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	8,369	8,468
Production per cow <u>2</u> /	Pounds	1,654	1,657
Production <u>2</u> /.....	Mil. lbs.	13,843	14,032

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Dec. 19 - Cattle on Feed
- Dec. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Dec. 22 - Cold Storage
- Dec. 26 - Livestock Slaughter
- Dec. 30 - Hogs and Pigs
- Dec. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
- Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
- Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings
- Jan. 15 - Turkey Hatchery
- Jan. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Jan. 16 - Milk Production
- Jan. 23 - Cattle on Feed

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